

forward

Fluor Daniel Fernald

inside:

- ◆ Medical is here to help
- ◆ 1 million safe work hours for Soil & Water
- ◆ Cleanup progress
- ◆ J. W. Lee to the rescue



April 1998

It isn't out of the ordinary for the Fluor Daniel Fernald Medical staff to treat everything from bee stings to sprained ankles during the course of a typical day. What is out of the ordinary is the top-notch care the staff provides to our team members. "Most companies don't provide even close to the same level of service we offer our folks here at Fernald," said Dr. Doran Christensen, medical director. "Every member of our department is a highly skilled and certified professional. Team members benefit greatly from our expertise."

In reality, the doctors and nurses who work here do much more than treat bee stings; they save lives. "I can't tell you how many times we've found things during routine lab

Caring for you

work that people had no idea was wrong," said Debby Smith, team leader and laboratory technician. "We evaluate trending, look for patterns and then we explain what we've found. A lot of times we catch things early enough that people have time to do something about them."

On average, the Medical staff treats approximately 50 patients each day. Team members visit Medical for routine physicals, occupational fitness-for-duty assessments, allergy shots, blood pressure checks, x-rays and a myriad of other ailments.

When Butch Branham cut his hand on some metal banding earlier this year, he knew right away he was going to need stitches. "I asked a lot of questions about the doctor's and nurses' backgrounds because I wanted to know what kind of qualifications they had," Branham, a transportation laborer, said. "I was very impressed with their professionalism. The doctor stitched me up, gave me a tetanus shot and showed me what I needed to do to take care of it at home. I can't say enough good things about them."

Fortunately, because of our team members' commitment to safety, Fluor Daniel Fernald's accident rate is declining, but that doesn't mean the Medical staff is any less busy. "We are constantly looking for ways to improve the service we offer our team members," Dr. Christensen explained. "The incidence of heat stress is a good example of that commitment to quality care." Two years ago, the nurses began visiting team members in their work areas to explain symptoms of heat stress and the best ways to avoid it. Since Medical initiated that program, only two very mild cases of heat stress have been reported.

That dedication to the well-being of our team members is what sets our medical staff apart and ensures that every time you visit, you'll receive the best possible care.



Right: Stephanie Key, a registered nurse, checks a patient's blood pressure as part of a routine physical (6863D-002).

On the cover: Earlier this month, Fernald's Emergency Response Team (ERT) responded to a simulated auto crash scene to demonstrate the importance of seatbelt safety. Team members observed as the ERT removed the doors and peeled back the roof of the car so they could safely extricate the "victim." The event was a powerful reminder of the damage a wreck can cause and the protection seatbelts provide (6152D-347).

Setting records for safety

The team members in the Soil and Water Projects Division recently reached an important milestone: 1 million safe work hours without a lost-time accident. "We are very proud of this accomplishment," said Soil and Water vice president Dennis Carr. "We're doing a lot of work around the site, and it's great to see everyone thinking and acting safely."

The safe work record began on Jan. 1, 1997 and includes such challenging projects as the installation of the Haul Road; construction of the new North Access Road, On-Site Disposal Facility and the rail yard; expansion of the Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility; and site preparation of the Southern Waste Units.

In 1998, Soil and Water Division team members are striving to continue their record of no lost-time injuries while reducing the number of first aid cases and recordable injuries. "Our goal is zero accidents," Carr said.



Above: Obtaining monitoring well samples is just one of the many activities team members from the Soil and Water Projects Division have performed safely for the last 15 months (6860D-009).



Fernald forges new path with labor agreement

In March, members of the Fernald Atomic Trades and Labor Council (FAT&LC) voted to accept a new five-year collective bargaining agreement with Fluor Daniel Fernald. "I've been through several of these types of negotiations in the past, and this was definitely the best," said Gene Branham, FAT&LC vice president. "Realizing we're all on the same team made things go a lot more smoothly."

"By working together, we were able to reach an agreement that considers our represented team members' needs while implementing work process improvements that support the accelerated cleanup plan," said John Bradburne, Fluor Daniel Fernald president. "Labor relations is one of the many areas in which we continue to make progress at Fernald."

The joint union and management effort resulted in a leading-edge agreement that satisfies dual goals: maintaining necessary skills and talent for project completion, while preparing those who have fulfilled their roles at Fernald for employment elsewhere.

This is the first five-year contract approved at any Department of Energy site completely dedicated to remediation and could serve as the model for other facilities entering the closure phase.

Above: (Clockwise from top right) John Bradburne; Bob Schwab, FAT&LC president; Peggy Doherty, Industrial Relations; and Gene Branham were present for the official contract signing ceremony (6842D-017).



Above: Track-leveling operations in the North Rail Yard continue as part of the on-site rail improvements. (6349D-1314).

Right: Removing holdup material from furnaces was one of the many tasks Safe Shutdown hazardous waste workers completed safely in Plant 8 (6681D-79).



■ Waste Pits Remedial Action Project

- Work crews completed construction of Locomotive Maintenance Facility.
- Personnel continued the Shandon Yard upgrade construction and on-site rail improvements.
- Team members continued review of IT Corporation's pre-mobilization contract deliverables.

■ On-Site Disposal Facility

- Personnel completed construction of Material Transfer Area and initiated construction of Decontamination Facility.
- Crews began placement of 2-foot layer of select impacted material in Cell 1.

■ Safe Shutdown and Decontamination and Dismantlement Projects

- Safe Shutdown team members completed activities in Plant 8.
- Decontamination and dismantlement activities continue in the Boiler Plant and Plant 9.
- Team members submitted the Maintenance/Tank Farm Complex and the Sewage Treatment Complex Implementation Plans to the regulatory agencies.

■ Silos Projects

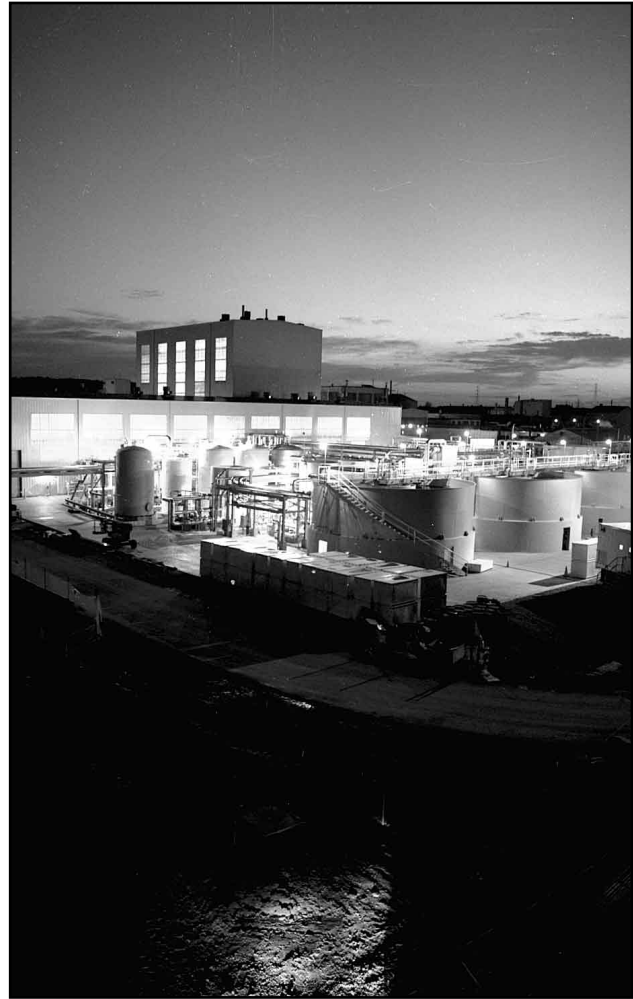
- Team members completed revision of *Silo 3 Draft Request for Proposal* to incorporate off-site treatment.
- Crews completed mock-up testing of Silo 3 Small Scale Waste Retrieval at Silo 4 and initiated relocation of equipment to Silo 3.

■ Aquifer Restoration and Wastewater Project

- Team members completed all major construction activities on the Advanced Wastewater Treatment (AWWT) Facility Expansion and initiated Integrated Construction Acceptance Testing and System Operability Testing.
- Crews completed off-property pipeline installation for South Plume Optimization Project.

■ Waste Management and Nuclear Materials Disposition Projects

- Neutralization/Precipitation/Deactivation/Stabilization Project — Team members treated a total of 760 drums as of March 27, 1998.
- Nuclear Materials Disposition Operations — Team members shipped eight samples of various uranium-containing compounds off site for analysis in support of the contract for sale of low-enriched uranium materials.
- T-Hopper Repackaging System — By implementing modifications from lessons learned to optimize system operability, team members were able to safely repack three T-Hoppers in just one week.



Above: The expansion of the AWWT facility will increase treatment capacity from 1100-gallons-per-minute to 2900-gallons-per-minute (5531A-1082).

Left: An operator working on the Plant 6 T-Hopper repackaging project vacuums the rim of a 55-gallon drum before sealing the lid (6714D-114).

Leading by example

“The level of effort this company puts forth to help our team members is unmatched.”

It seems that it's often easier to give advice than it is to follow it. Paul Mohr knows this is true. “For as long as I can remember I've been telling people how important it is to take advantage of the tuition reimbursement opportunities we have here,” said Mohr, Fluor Daniel Fernald's director of Human Resources (HR). “I finally took my own advice two years ago. I'll finish up my master's degree in business administration this May.”

Mohr joined the HR Department in 1984 after being downsized from the Kroger Co. “Since I worked in personnel at Kroger, I had some advance notice, but nobody else had any warning at all,” he said. “It was not a pleasant situation.”

Mohr believes the process Fernald has in place to manage workforce restructuring is light years ahead of the rest of the business world. “I don't know of any other company that devotes this many resources to workforce development,” he said. “The level of effort

this company puts forth to help our team members is unmatched.”

Currently, the most challenging aspect of his job is encouraging his team to look for opportunities that will put them in the best possible position when it's time to leave Fernald. “I'd like to see everyone in the HR Department capitalize on the certification and education options available to them,” Mohr said. “I want to do everything I can to help them prepare for their next jobs.”

This includes preparing himself. “I know that my job here isn't going to last forever, either,” Mohr said. “I've enjoyed the years



Above: During his 14 year tenure, Paul Mohr has done everything from manage the Public Affairs Department to serve as employee ombudsman. He enjoys the challenges of his current job, director of Human Resources (6867D-002).

I've spent at Fernald, but when the time comes to move on, I'll be ready.”

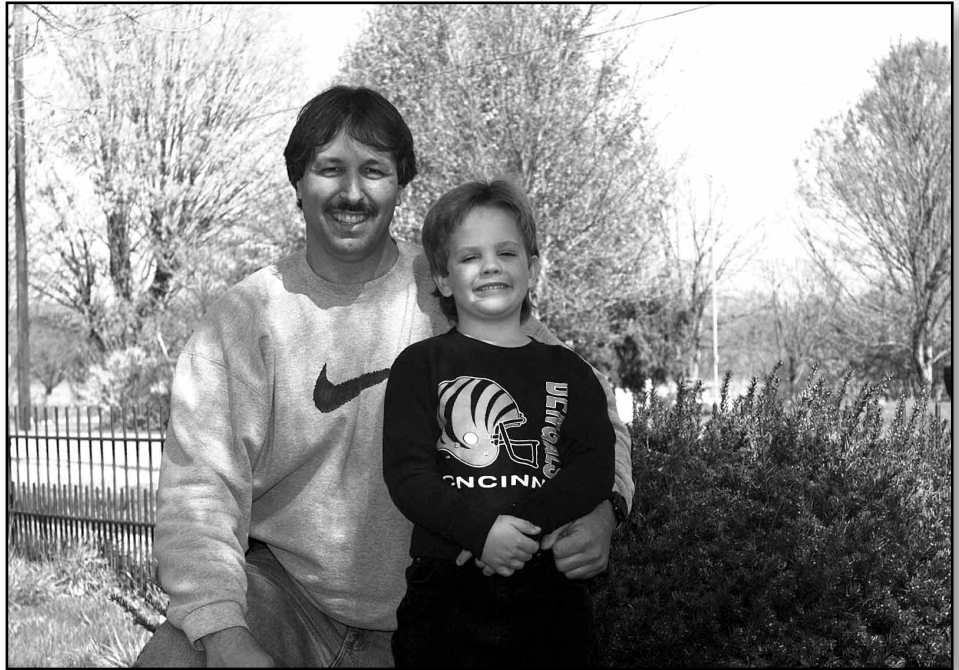
Before he leaves, Mohr wants to ensure all HR programs are structured to serve the needs of team members as they work toward closure. “We're very close now,” he said. “It will be quite an accomplishment when we have all the programs and services in place to make transition from this facility as easy as possible for folks.”

If Mohr could offer one piece of advice to team members, it would be, “Don't let the opportunities you have here pass you by,” he said. “You may not see anything like this ever again.”

Another good Samaritan from Fernald

On a dark and rainy February evening, John (J. W.) Lee was headed to a Ross School Board meeting to perform his duties as an Envoy when he noticed a small child lying in the middle of State Route 126 in Shandon. The child, Josh Mills, had been hit by a car as he tried to cross the busy highway. "I wasn't sure what it was at first," said Lee. "It didn't even occur to me that it might be a little boy."

The driver of the car that struck the child had gone to call for help, leaving the 5-year-old boy alone in the street. With some traffic still trying to pass through the accident scene, Lee got out of his own vehicle, stayed with the boy and tried to keep him calm until the paramedics arrived. While waiting for the ambulance, Lee, using the training he had received at Fernald, assessed the child's visible injuries, monitored his breathing, kept his head stable and attempted to control his bleeding. "I didn't think about it; I just reacted," Lee said. "I'm grateful the training I've gotten



Above: J. W. Lee and Josh Mills maintain the friendship they forged on that fateful February night (6856D-003).

through Fernald enabled me to help."

Lee discovered later that Josh suffered a broken hip, concussion and needed 17 stitches in his chin. Thanks to Lee's quick thinking, willingness to help and the training he received on the job, Josh Mills was protected against additional injury and should recover fully.



Wet and wonderful

What do you get when you combine almost 2,000 grade schoolers with fun water experiments? The answer is Waterfest. In March, Fluor Daniel Fernald team members participated in Waterfest, an annual event in which students and teachers from local elementary schools learn about water resources and our dependence on them. Fernald representatives provided an exhibit and conducted activities that reached more than 1,800 students. Experiments included testing water quality and observing the effects of soap on water. The event was sponsored by the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission, the Metropolitan Sewer District, Hamilton County General Health District, and Hamilton County Soils and Water Conservation District.

Left: The Fluor Daniel Fernald exhibit was busy all day as students crowded around to answer trivia questions about water. Here, Sherry Webb quizzes a fourth grader about the amount of water necessary to produce one can of soda (6848-14).



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Together, DOE and Fluor Daniel Fernald are committed to safely restoring the Fernald site to an end state which serves the communities' needs within a decade.